

**Draft Environmental Assessment** 

# LaSalle County Emergency Operation Center

LaSalle County, Illinois

April 2009



U.S. Department of Homeland Security Department of Homeland Security 500 C Street, SW Washington, DC 2047

## **LaSalle County Environmental Assessment**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Section 1 Background	4
1.2 Project Location	4
1.3 Purpose and Need	5
1.4 Existing Facility	6
Section 2 Alternative Analysis	7
2.1 Alternative 1 – No Action	7
2.2 Alternative 2 – Proposed Action	7
2.3 Alternative 3 – Expand Existing EOC	7
2.4 Alternative 4 – Alternative Considered But Dismissed	8
Section 3 Affected Environment and Consequences	9
3.1 Physical Environment	10
3.1.1 Geology, Seismicity and Soils	10
3.1.2 Water Resources and Water Quality	11
3.1.3 Floodplain Management	12
3.1.4 Air Quality	12
3.2 Biological Environment	13
3.2.1 Threatened and Endangered Species	13
3.2.2 Wetlands	14
3.3 Hazardous Materials	15
3.4 Socioeconomics	16
3.4.2 Visual Resources	16
3.4.3 Noise	17
3.4.4 Public Services and Utilities	17
3.4.5 Traffic and Circulation	18
3.4.6 Environmental Justice	19
3.4.7 Safety and Security	20
3.5 Historic and Cultural Resources	21
3.6 Table of Comparisons	23
Section 4 Cumulative Impacts	24
Section 5 Public Participation	25
Section 6 Mitigation Measures and Permits	26
Section 7 Consultations and References	
Section 8 List of Preparers	29

## **LaSalle County Environmental Assessment**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS Attachments and Documentations

Appendix A - Site Location Maps	.30
Appendix B - Photographs	
Appendix C - Agency Consultations	
Appendix D - Water and Air Quality Documentation	50

### **LaSalle County Environmental Assessment**

#### **ACRONYMS**

DHS Department of Homeland Security

EA Environmental Assessment

EMA Emergency Management Agency

EOC Emergency Operations Center

ESA Endangered Species Act

FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency

FIRM Flood Insurance Rate Map

FONSI Finding of No Significant Impact

IDNR Illinois Department of Natural Resources

IEMA Illinois Emergency Management Agency

IHPA Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

LESA Land Evaluation and Site Assessment

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Services

NWI National Wetlands Inventory

USFWS United States Fish and Wildlife Service

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

#### LaSalle County, Illinois Emergency Management Agency Emergency Operations Center

#### **SECTION 1: BACKGROUND**

LaSalle County, Illinois was awarded a \$956,250.00 grant from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for the Fiscal Year 2008 under the Homeland Security Grant Program, Emergency Operations Center Grant Program (EOC), CFDA #97.052. This grant will be used to construct a new 9,100 sq. ft. (70'x130') facility to replace the small, inadequate (24'x36' [864 sq. ft.]) room now being used as the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

LaSalle County faces a number of significant hazards, a state of the art emergency management operations facility is a necessity. LaSalle County:

- Experienced two major floods in 2008
- Experienced a major tornado in 2004 (Utica, Illinois)
- Has three nuclear power plants either in or in close proximity to the County, (Exelon Nuclear LaSalle Station is within the County; Braidwood and Dresden are within 50 miles of the County)
- Includes the Fox and Illinois Rivers within the County both of which are utilized for the transport of hazardous materials (along the Illinois River there are five off loading facilities, three of which off load anhydrous ammonia (CF Industries in Marseilles and Peru an Agrium US, Inc. in Marseilles) and two of which off load chemicals for the plastic industry (SABIC in Ottawa and Flint Hills Resources Enterprise in Peru), and
- Includes two major interstate highways (I-80 and I-39) both of which involve transport of hazardous materials.

"In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500 through 1508), and FEMA regulations of NEPA compliance (44 CFR Part 10), FEMA must fully understand and consider the environmental consequences of actions proposed for federal funding. The purpose of this Environmental Assessment (EA) is to meet FEMA's responsibilities under NEPA and to determine whether to prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed project."

#### 1.2 PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed project is located in Ottawa, (LaSalle County), Illinois in Section 36 of Wallace Township; T34N, 3E (See Figure 1). It is located on the LaSalle County Illinois Governmental Complex campus at 707 East Etna Road (County Highway 20), Ottawa, IL, 0.5 mile east of Illinois Route 23 and approximately 0.1 mile south of Interstate 80 (See Figure 2), 41°22'15"N, 88°49'30"W.

The project is located within the city limits of Ottawa, Illinois and represents appropriate development for the location. Along Etna Road there is mixed development which includes county, state and federal governmental buildings (offices) as well as private development including professional offices, a bank, single family housing including condominiums and 1 retail establishment. The area is generally zoned C-3 (City zoning business district zoning district) (See Figure 3).

LaSalle County has a population of 111,509 (2000 US Census) and is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest county in Illinois by land area (1,153 sq. mi.). The City of Ottawa has a population of 18,307 (2000 US Census) and is located approximately 80 miles southwest of Chicago, Illinois along Interstate 80 and IL Route 23 at the confluence of the Illinois and Fox Rivers. Ottawa, Illinois is located the following distances from the major cities listed:

•	Chicago, IL	83 miles
•	Bloomington, IL	74 miles
•	Rockford, IL	81 miles
•	Springfield, IL	137 miles
•	Dubuque, IA	154 miles
•	Milwaukee, WI	160 miles
•	St. Louis, MO	235 miles
•	Indianapolis, IN	235 miles
•	Minneapolis, MN	400 miles

As stated earlier, the project is located within the corporate limits of the City of Ottawa, Illinois. Refer to the Appendices A and B for location, site maps and photographs of the project location.

#### 1.3 PURPOSE AND NEED

A needs assessment was conducted June 25, 2008 by County Board Chairman Jerry Hicks, EMA Coordinator Mike Jobst and Exelon representative Jerry DeYoung. Subsequently Architect Roger Schroepfer of Wold was consulted regarding the current and future EOC space needs.

Currently the LaSalle County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) has a fully computerized EOC and has been upgrading and improving response and contact capabilities with new equipment since 2003, making the EMA and EOC more professional and capable of responding to and addressing terror or disaster situations. However, the building space has been found to be inadequate to meet the needs of the department and use as the County's EOC. The 24'x36' (864 sq. ft.) room is undersized to meet the necessary requirements of effective EOC operations. The inadequacy of the EOC space became evident during the regular biennial power plant disaster training exercise. The size and layout of the room made it difficult to efficiently and effectively perform all the necessary tasks; tasks that would be required during any disaster or terror attack situation.

The objective of the Department of Homeland Security's Emergency Operations Center grant program is to improve emergency management and preparedness capabilities by supporting flexible, sustainable, secure, and interoperable EOCs focusing on identified deficiencies and

needs. The purpose of the action alternatives presented in this Environmental Assessment is to provide adequate space for the LaSalle County, Illinois EMA EOC to effectively address the County's emergency management needs. The need for the project is to provide an appropriate space for the EMA and EOC to appropriately function and protect the citizens of the County.

#### 1.4 EXISTING FACILITY

The project is proposed to be constructed upon vacant property that is part of the current LaSalle County Governmental Complex Campus along Etna Road, Ottawa, Illinois. The site is an approximately four acre undeveloped area which is part of the approximately 10 acre Governmental Complex.

#### SECTION TWO: ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS

Four alternatives were considered for addressing the Counties EOC operational deficiencies: No Action Alternative, The Proposed Action Alternative, Expansion of the existing facility used as an EOC, and Construction of the EOC on an alternative site.

#### 2.1 ALTERNATIVE 1 – NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

If no action is taken, the current EMA EOC space would continue to be utilized, providing inefficient and potentially ineffective response to disasters. Use of the current space would mean some necessary equipment would continue to be stored off site and not be available as quickly as may be necessary to respond to a natural or man- made disaster.

# 2.2 ALTERNATIVE 2 – (PROPOSED ACTION) LASALLE COUNTY EOC CONSTRUCTION IN EXISTING COUNTY GOVERNMENT CAMPUS

The proposed action is the construction of a one-story 70'x130' building with a partial basement (55'x70') and garage area (75'x70') for storage of equipment now stored off site. There will be ten parking stalls on the west side of the building accessed by a five foot sidewalk along the front and west sides of the building. There will be a concrete approach apron in the front and back of the garage area. The building is proposed to be constructed on a 4.1 acre site which is part of the existing County Governmental Campus. The utilities will be accessed through trenching to the various mains and connections. These distances vary according to the location of the existing utilities (natural gas-500'; water-300'; sanitary sewer-550'; storm sewer-100'; and electrical-275'). The topsoil removed will be stock piled either on site or off site at the County Highway Department for later use. The contractor will dispose of the other soil; it may be used as fill or otherwise legally disposed.

# 2.3 ALTERNATIVE 3 – LASALLE COUNTY EMA EOC – EXPAND EXISTING EMA EOC AREA

Currently the EMA EOC is located in the basement of the Governmental Complex building. Expansion of the current EMA EOC at its present location is not possible since all available space in the building is being utilized and other occupants are also seeking more space. This would mean that to expand in the current building, the building would need to have an addition constructed. Due to the nature of the current building this would be impractical and as costly as a new building. It would also not allow for adequate separation of the EMA EOC from other governmental operations and compromise the security of the current EOC operations.

# 2.4 ALTERNATIVE 4 – CONSIDERED BUT DISMISSED - LASALLE COUNTY EMA-EOC CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITY ON ALTERNATIVE SITE

The proposed LaSalle County EMA EOC building could be constructed on an alternative site but it would entail added costs and time needed for the purchase property, appraisals, governmental approvals and identification of funding sources. These would be overly burdensome especially in view of the current need for expedient action. Also, an Alternative Site would not have the efficiencies of a combined complex as with the proposed action. Efficiencies of a combined complex include simpler and shorter access routes and travel times, and easier communication of among staff, especially in the time of an emergency.

#### SECTION THREE: AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND CONSEQUENCES

#### 3.1 PHYSICAL ENVIROMENT

#### 3.1.1 Geology, Seismicity and Soils

The project area is located in an area with minimal earthquake activity as evidenced by the *Earthquakes In Illinois 1795-2008* map that has been prepared by the Illinois State Geological Survey (See Figure 4). During this time period, only two earthquakes were recorded, both of which were recorded in eastern LaSalle County, east of Ottawa. The first earthquake recorded was in 1881 and had a magnitude of 3.0-3.9 and the second earthquake occurred in 2004 and had a magnitude of 2.0-2.9. The nearest fault is the Sandwich Fault, which cuts across the far, northeast portion of LaSalle County. LaSalle County is not regarded as one of the counties in Illinois with a high risk for seismic activity. All architectural and engineering design best practices will be followed to conform to all local codes and ordinances.

The topographic quad maps for the area (See Figure 1) indicates that the proposed property is at 600' above sea level and is not in a floodplain (see Figure 5, floodplain map.) According to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (see Appendix C, IDNR Coordination letter dated 3/23/2009) the proposed project is unlikely to have any adverse effects on any protected natural resources in the vicinity of the proposed project.

Although the proposed site is within the corporate limits of the City of Ottawa, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was consulted to determine the type of soil(s) and to analyze its value as prime farm ground to be preserved through a Land Evaluation Site Assessment (LESA). A Resource Conservationist completed the LESA and the property was found to be prime farmland; however, based upon the LESA score of 91.87804878 it was determined not to be highly valued for preservation and the proposed use would be appropriate. According to the LESA system a score of 200 or more is the criteria that would indicate land that should be considered for preservation as farm ground. Included in Appendix C is an analysis of the soil(s) on the property as well as the completed LESA.

Below is a tabulation of the soils(s) and their characteristics (this is included in the attachments section with more detailed information regarding properties such as slope, etc.).

Map Unit Symbol 148C2	Map Unit Name Proctor silt loam, 5 to 10 percent Slopes, eroded	<u>Acres</u> 0.2	Percent of Acres 5.3%
171B	Catlin silt loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	3.8	91.8%
530E2	Ozaukee silt loam, 12 to 20 percent Slopes, eroded	0.1	2.9%
TOTALS	-	4.1	$\boldsymbol{100.0\%}$

Although the proposed project site was determined to be prime farmland, the LESA score of 91 indicated that the land was not highly valued for preservation

#### Alternative 1, No Action

Under the No Action Alternatives, no impacts related to geology, seismicity or soils would occur.

#### Alternative 2, Proposed Action

NRCS was consulted regarding the proposed site and it was determined that it is appropriate for the construction of an EMA EOC building since the site is part of a larger site within the corporate limits of the City, is only 4.1 acres, is surrounded by development, and is not part of a larger farm tract. The proposed site and project will not impact the geology, seismicity, and soils. All construction activity will incorporate practices to minimize soil erosion during construction. Proper site preparation and construction techniques will prevent erosion caused by disturbance of the site. Appropriate best management techniques may include temporary installation of silt fences and/or straw bales, and the staging of construction equipment in existing developed areas such as the adjacent paved parking lot will be used to prevent impacts to surface waters.

#### Alternative 3, Expansion of Existing EOC

No impacts to geology, seismicity, and soils would occur since any expansion would occur on a portion of the property reviewed by the NRCS and determined appropriate for construction. Any construction done would incorporate best construction practices to minimize any run-off during construction. As part of the site preparation and building expansion, the building run-off will be controlled by providing adequate site detention through site grading. This would be done in the same manner described in Alternative 2, Proposed Action and the City of Ottawa's Storm Water Management ordinance would also be the guiding regulatory document. The expansion area would also be tied into an existing storm sewer system located on the county campus site.

#### 3.1.2 Water Resources and Water Quality

There is no visible surface water detected on the site. The run-off from the site ultimately drains to the Fox River which is over a mile from the site. There are no known aquifers in the vicinity of the site. For the watershed information please refer to the information in Appendix D regarding water tests for the Lower Fox Watershed.

#### Alternative 1, No Action

There are no ground water resources that would be affected by the No Action Alternative.

#### Alternative 2, Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, temporary short-term impacts to surface water could occur during construction. During construction, on site detention will be provided through site grading. The site also contains an existing storm sewer system that will be utilized. The County will comply with the City of Ottawa's Storm Water Management ordinance which means the rate of water run-off of the area will be no greater than it is now without the proposed building. This will be done by designing the site elevations to retain a few inches of water (no more than 6") to slow the rate of run-off. This is currently being designed by the engineer and will include elevations of the paved and non-paved areas to retain water to slow the rate of run-off. The areas detaining water are being designed to slow the rate of run-off and not to provide any long term detention of the water.

#### Alternative 3, Expansion of Existing EOC

Under the Expansion of Existing EOC Alternative, temporary short-term impacts to surface water could occur during construction. Proper site preparation and construction techniques will prevent erosion caused by disturbance of the ground used for the expansion. Appropriate best management techniques may include temporary installation of silt fences and/or straw bales, and staging of construction equipment in existing developed areas such as the adjacent paved parking lot will be used to prevent impacts to surface waters.

#### 3.1.3 Floodplain Management (Executive Order 11988)

The City of Ottawa, Illinois participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and according to the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), Panel #530, Map #17099C0530, the proposed site is not in a floodplain. In addition the County's designated floodplain administrator, indicated the area is not in a floodplain (See Figure 5).

#### Alternative 1, No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts related to the floodplain would occur.

#### Alternative 2, Proposed Action

The proposed project site is located outside the 100-year floodplain and no impacts to the floodplain are anticipated.

#### Alternative 3, Expansion of Existing EOC

The existing EOC is located outside the 100-year floodplain and no impacts to the floodplain are anticipated.

#### 3.1.4 Air Quality

The Clean Air Act requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for pollutants considered harmful to public health and

the environment; the Clean Air Act established two types of national air quality standards; primary standards set limits to protect public health, including the health of 'sensitive' populations such as asthmatics, children, and the elderly; secondary standards set limits to protect public welfare, including protection against decreased visibility, damage to animals, crops, vegetation and buildings; current criteria pollutants are: Carbon Monoxide (CO), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), Lead (Pb), Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub>), and Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)."

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the project area is classified as in an attainment area for ozone pollution and in an attainment area for particulate matter. Please refer to Appendix D for documentation.

#### Alternative 1, No Action

The No Action Alternative would not affect the air quality in the project area.

#### Alternative 2, Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, short-term impacts to air quality would occur during the construction of the EOC. To reduce the temporary impacts to air quality, the applicant will water down construction areas when necessary.

#### Alternative 3, Expand Existing EOC

Under the Expand Existing EOC Alternative, short-term impacts to air quality would occur during the construction of the expansion. To reduce the temporary impacts to air quality, the applicant will water down any construction areas when necessary.

#### 3.2 BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

#### 3.2.1 Threatened and Endangered Species

In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, the project area was evaluated for the potential occurrences of federally listed threatened and endangered species. The ESA requires any federal agency that funds, authorizes or carries out an action to ensure that their action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species (including plant species) or result in the destruction of adverse modification of designated critical habitats.

The proposed site, as part of the Government Complex Campus, is a grassy area with no trees or other vegetation. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) lists the following endangered and threatened species for LaSalle County: Indiana bat, Sheepnose mussel, Decurrent false aster, Eastern prairie fringed orchid, and Leafy prairie clover. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was notified and indicated (see documentation of the contact with the USFWS dated February 20, 2009 in Appendix C) based upon the location and the lack of trees and other flowering plants, that adverse effects on any Threatened or Endangered species would be unlikely. The USFWS

also advised use of their web site for analysis. (See documentation of this analysis in Appendix C.)

Consultation was also made with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). See Apprendix C, for documentation of this consultation occurring on January 14, 2009. It was indicated that an endangered species, the River Redhorse fish (Moxostoma carinatum) is part of the Fox River INAI Site which is 1 to 1½ miles from the property. During a telephone call there was a concern expressed regarding additional run off from the construction of a new building; however, the contact, Mr. Keith Shank, indicated a review would be conducted and a formal letter would be issued (refer to the letter from IDNR in the attachment section). The County EMA Coordinator indicated that the area of the Fox River that this project will drain into is at one of the deepest points of the River. Therefore, the River Redhorse is probably not present at this location (the River Redhorse is located in the lowest depth areas of a river). The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) reviewed the project and sent a sign-off letter that stated "The Department has evaluated this information and concluded that adverse effects are unlikely. Therefore, consultation under 17 Ill. Admin. Code Part 1075 and 1090 is terminated." (IDNR consultation letter is included in Appendix C Agency Coordination).

#### Alternative 1, No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts to biological resources or protected species would occur.

#### Alternative 2, Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, short-term impacts to habitats and water quality could occur due to construction. The short term impacts could affect water quality on the Fox River. To mitigate potential water quality issues, adequate detention, defined as providing temporary detention to conform to the City of Ottawa's Storm Water Management Ordinance, and not increase the current water run-off rate, will be provided to prevent short-term impacts to this watercourse.

#### Alternative 3, Expansion of Existing EOC

Under the Expansion of Existing EOC Alternative, short-term impacts to water quality could occur during construction. These short-term impacts could affect the water quality on the Fox River. To mitigate potential water quality issues, adequate detention will be provided to prevent short-term impacts on the watercourse (as described in Alternative 2, Proposed Action section above).

#### 3.2.2 Wetlands (Executive Order 11990)

"Executive Order (EO) 11990, Protection of Wetlands, requires federal agencies to take action to minimize the loss of wetlands. The NEPA compliance process requires federal agencies to consider direct and indirect impacts to wetlands, which may result from federally funded actions"

The National Wetland Inventory (NWI) Maps were consulted, it was determined that no wetlands exist on the site nor are they in proximity to the site (See Figure 6). The closest known wetlands are located approximately 1 ½ mile to 2 miles southeast of the site and are shown on the map.

#### Alternative 1, No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts to wetlands are anticipated.

#### Alternative 2, Proposed Action Alternative

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, no impacts to wetlands are anticipated.

#### Alternative 3, Expansion of Existing EOC

Under the Expansion of Existing EOC Alternative, no impacts to wetlands are anticipated.

#### 3.3 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

There are no known hazardous materials on the site. The property was purchased by the County approximately 40 years ago. At the time it was a vacant piece of ground with no hazardous materials on the site and the County has not placed any such materials on the site in the intervening years. The site is currently a grassy area with no signs of any other disturbances. There are no underground tanks, nor any other documented hazardous materials on the site.

#### Alternative 1, No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts due to hazardous materials are anticipated.

#### Alternative 2, Proposed Action Alternative

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, no impacts due to hazardous materials are anticipated. Although subsurface hazardous materials are not anticipated to be present, excavation activities could expose or otherwise affect subsurface hazardous wastes or materials; any hazardous materials discovered, generated, or used during the implementation of the proposed project shall be disposed of and handled by the project applicant in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

#### Alternative 3, Expansion of Existing EOC

Under the Expansion of Existing EOC Alternative, no impacts due to hazardous materials are anticipated.

#### 3.4 SOCIOECONOMICS

#### 3.4.1 Zoning and Land Use

The project site is a portion of a 10 acre site that contains various LaSalle County Buildings. The site represents approximately 4 acres of the 10 acre site and is a vacant, grassy area located with the corporate boundaries of the City of Ottawa, Illinois. The County Complex site is zoned C-3 (Commercial or Business) property or C-3. A building permit would be required and would be issued following a site and design review by the City.

#### Alternative 1, No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts to zoning or land use are anticipated.

#### Alternative 2, Proposed Action Alternative

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, a building permit will be required by the local jurisdiction. The permit will be obtained by LaSalle County prior to any work commencing on the project. The proposed development is appropriate for the site and consistent with surrounding land use.

#### Alternative 3, Expansion of Existing EOC

Under the Expansion of Existing EOC Alternative, a building permit may be required by the local jurisdiction. The permit will be obtained by LaSalle County prior to any work commencing on the project.

#### 3.4.2 Visual Resources

The proposed site is a vacant, grassy parcel. South of the parcel is a group of pine trees that surrounds a local cemetery. North of the parcel is the County Complex parking lot as well as the LaSalle County Health Department and Etna Road. East is a piece of tilled farmland. Just beyond the farmland is residential subdivision, which consists of 85 single family residences. West of the proposed site are several County structures including the detention center and the Sheriff's radio tower. Northwest of the site is the large County Complex Administration Building.

#### Alternative 1, No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts to visual resources are anticipated.

#### Alternative 2, Proposed Action Alternative

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, no impacts to visual resources are anticipated. The proposal will be within a cluster of county governmental buildings. It will be constructed on a 4.1 acre site and is a one story building with a partial basement. There are no significant visual resources and the building will be consistent with other buildings in the area.

#### Alternative 3, Expansion of Existing EOC

Under the Expansion of Existing EOC Alternative, no impacts to the visual resources are anticipated due to the expansion of the EOC would occur within a cluster of county governmental buildings.

#### **3.4.3** Noise

The only noise from the proposed project will be that associated with normal construction activities. Once the building is complete there will be no excessive noise from the project. As is evidenced by the attached photos, the nearest subdivision is approximately 170 yards from the property and should not be adversely affected by the construction. "Noise defined herein as undesirable sound, is federally regulated by the Noise Control Act of 1972 (NCA); although the NCA gives EPA authority to prepare guidelines for acceptable ambient noise levels, it only charges those federal agencies that operate noise-producing facilities or equipment to implement noise standards; the EPA's guidelines, and those of many federal agencies, state and outdoor sound level in excess of 55 dB are "normally unacceptable" for noise-sensitive land uses such as residences, schools and hospitals."

#### Alternative 1, No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts due to noise are anticipated.

#### Alternative 2, Proposed Action Alternative

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, temporary short-term impacts due to noise are anticipated during the construction period. To reduce noise levels during the period, construction activities would take place during normal business hours, and equipment and machinery installed at the proposed project site would meet all Federal, state, and local noise regulations.

#### Alternative 3, Expansion of Existing EOC

Under the Expansion of Existing EOC Alternative, temporary short-term impacts due to noise are anticipated during the construction period. To reduce noise levels during the period, construction activities would take place during normal business hours, and equipment and machinery installed at the proposed project site would meet all Federal, state, and local noise regulations.

#### 3.4.4 Public Services and Utilities

The LaSalle County Sheriff's Department is located on the Complex site and all utilities (electric, gas and telephone) are to the complex site and available to the project site. The fire and ambulance station is located approximately three miles from the site with the nearest school approximately two miles from the site. Trenching will be required for utility hookups and the

approximate distances are: gas-500'; water-300'; sanitary sewer-550'; electric-275'; and storm sewer-100'.

#### Alternative 1, No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts to public utilities are anticipated.

#### Alternative 2, Proposed Action Alternative

Utilities hookups are present at the site perimeter and will only require some underground lines and connection to existing water, sewer, natural gas, and electrical lines. The hookups to these utilities will require the following approximate trenching distances: gas-500'; water-300'; sanitary sewer-550'; electric-275'; and storm sewer-100'. The Proposed Action Alternative will put an additional, limited load on the utilities in the area; however the utilities are more than adequate to carry the minimum additional load. Just completed last summer (2009) was the installation of a new gravity fall sanitary sewer which is designed for the anticipated additional development in the area.

#### Alternative 3, Expansion of Existing EOC

Under the Expansion of Existing EOC Alternative, no impacts to public utilities are anticipated since there would be no change to the existing utilities due to the expansion.

#### 3.4.5 Traffic and Circulation

The proposed site is located along a major two lane county highway, CH 20 or Etna Road. Illinois Route 23 (a major two lane state route) is within 0.5 mile of the site and Interstate 80 (a 4 lane limited access highway) is within 0.6 mile driving distance from the site.

The County completed the construction of a new jail in 2002 on the County site which was a major project with truck and equipment traffic. There were no issues or problems for the area with this traffic and the proposed project is significantly smaller and will require less traffic for construction purposes, thus there should be no anticipated adverse impacts to traffic.

#### Alternative 1, No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts to traffic are anticipated.

#### Alternative 2, Proposed Action Alternative

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, short-term impacts due to increased construction traffic are anticipated. To mitigate potential delays, construction vehicles will be stored on site during project construction.

#### Alternative 3, Expansion of Existing EOC

Under the Expansion of Existing EOC Alternative, short term impacts due to increased construction traffic is anticipated; although this would be slight since all the construction will take place within an existing county building and not require large trucks or other heavy equipment.

#### 3.4.6 Environmental Justice (Executive Order 12898)

"On February 11, 1994, President Clinton signed Executive Order (EO) 12898, entitled 'Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations'. The EO directs federal agencies, 'to make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations in the United States..."

The State of Illinois has a population of 12,419,293 (2000 US Census); LaSalle County has a population of 111,509 (2000 US Census); and the City of Ottawa has a population of 18,307 (2000 US Census). Of this population, 19.2% in the State of Illinois, 5.6% in LaSalle County, and 4.2% in Ottawa speak a language other than English at home (2000 US Census). 2000 US Census statistics also show that the State of Illinois has 7.8% of its families and 10.7% of its individuals considered to be at or below the poverty level. That percentage in LaSalle County is 6.94% of its families and 9.14% of its individuals while the City of Ottawa shows 9.81% of its families and 11.29% of its individuals are at or below the poverty level. Finally, according the 2000 US Census the minority population for the State of Illinois stands at approximately 26.5%, in LaSalle County at 5.0% and in the City of Ottawa at 4.7%.

The proposed project will in no way negatively impact any of these population groups. In fact, since this project is being funded with a grant and current building maintenance money, taxes will not be raised to fund it.

#### Alternative 1, No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative, no disproportionate or adverse effects on minority or low-income population in the area are anticipated.

#### Alternative 2, Proposed Action Alternative

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, no disproportionate or adverse effects on minority or low-income population in the area are anticipated. The Proposed Action Alternative will positively affect everyone, allowing the use of grant funds leveraged with existing county maintenance funds to construct the proposed building. As a result, increased taxes will not be needed for this alternative, thus those who can afford additional taxes the least will not have their taxes increased. In addition, the efficiency and effectiveness of the EOC will be enhanced and increased by additional space and the storage of necessary emergency equipment on site.

#### Alternative 3, Expansion of Existing EOC

Under the Expansion of Existing EOC Alternative, no disproportionate or adverse effects on minority or low-income population in the area is anticipated. Under the Expansion of the Existing EOC would mean disruption of the operations of the EOC, thus creating potential of delayed responses and inefficient operations.

#### 3.4.7 Safety and Security

To minimize risks to safety and human health, all construction activities will be performed using qualified personnel trained in the proper use of the appropriate equipment including all appropriate safety precautions; additionally, all activities will be conducted in a safe manner in accordance with the standards specified in Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) regulations.

The current location of the LaSalle County Emergency Management Agency Emergency Operations Center (EMA EOC) is accessible to the public, being a located in the Governmental Complex Administrative building which houses the various County offices as well as the County Board offices. While security cameras monitor the entrance of the Governmental Administrative Building (and the parking lot and other areas around the building), once someone is in the building, the basement office of the EMA EOC is accessible to anyone.

The new facility will have security cameras located at the corners of the building to monitor the entrance as well as the parking areas. It will be a stand- alone building that will only house the LaSalle County Emergency Management Agency Emergency Operations Center. In addition the building will have a lobby area/reception area and control access to the other parts of the building would be controlled by the EMA and limited to those who should have access. There is an advantage to the building not being open to the public. It means that access to the EMA EOC can be carefully monitored and controlled by the local EMA. It will only be entered by those who have business with the local EMA and will be utilized primarily by those having need and business with the EMA. Therefore the new, proposed facility should provide a more secure operation for the LaSalle County Emergency Management Agency. In addition, the facility will have a fire sprinkler system as well as a fire alarm system which will be tied into the City of Ottawa's Fire Department.

#### Alternative 1, No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no disproportionate or adverse effects on safety and security are anticipated.

#### Alternative 2, Proposed Action Alternative

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, no adverse impacts to safety and security are anticipated. The construction of the new facility will enhance the safety and security of county residents by providing adequate space to house all the operations, keeping various aspects separated, and to

store needed emergency equipment. This will allow for a more efficient and quick response by the County when necessary.

#### Action Alternative 3, Expansion of Existing EOC

Under Expansion of Existing EOC Alternative, no adverse impacts to safety and security are anticipated. Expansion of the existing EOC would cause disruption in the operations and could result in less efficient and slower response to any disaster or attack.

#### 3.5 HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, and implemented by 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800; requirements include identification of significant historic properties that may be affected by the Proposed Action; historic properties are defined as archaeological sites, standing structures or other historic resources listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) (36CFR 60.4);

- Section 110 Guidelines of the NHPA regarding the identification and protection of historic properties and the avoidance of unnecessary damage to them;
- o Section 1508.27 (b) (3,6, and 8) of NEPA regarding the context and intensity or severity of impacts on historic and cultural resources;
- The American Indian Religious Freedom Act regarding the protection and preservation of American Indian sites, possessions, and ceremonial and traditional rites; and
- The Archeological Resources Protection Act regarding the protection of archeological resources on public lands and Indian lands.

In addition to review under NEPA, consideration of effects to historic properties is mandated under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, and implemented by 36 CFR Part 800. Requirements include identification of significant historic properties that may be affected by the Proposed Action. Historic properties are defined as archaeological sites, standing structures, or other history resources listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) (36 CFR 60.4).

As defined in 36 CFR Part 800.16(d), the Area of Potential Effect (APE), 'is the geographical area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if such properties exist.'

In addition to identifying historic properties that may exist in the proposed project's APE, FEMA must also determine, in consultation with the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)/Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), what effect, if any, the action will have on historic properties. Moreover, if the project would have an adverse effect on the properties, FEMA must consult with SHPO/THPO on ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the adverse effect."

There are no buildings historic or otherwise on the vacant parcel being proposed for the EMA EOC building nor are there any other historic or cultural resources on the site. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) was consulted regarding the site and indicated there are no

known historic resources that would be adversely affected by the proposed action. (IHPA clearance letter is dated October 27, 2008 within Appendix C).

#### Alternative 1, No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts to archeological or cultural resources are anticipated.

#### Alternative 2, Proposed Action Alternative

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, no impacts to archeological or cultural resources are anticipated. To ensure that ground disturbing activities will not adversely affect any buried cultural resources, and in accordance with 36 CFR 800.13, provisions are set forth to deal with unexpected discoveries that may be historically significant but were not identified as part of the initial review process. If human remains are discovered during the course of project implementation, La Salle County will notify IEMA, FEMA and the IL SHPO immediately and will stop project activities in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm until FEMA concludes consultation with the Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer or, if warranted, other consulting parties and the sub-grantee.

#### Alternative 3, Expansion of Existing EOC

Under the Expansion of Existing EOC, no impacts to archeological or cultural resources are anticipated. To ensure that ground disturbing activities will not adversely affect any buried cultural resources, and in accordance with 36 CFR 800, provisions are set forth to deal with unexpected discoveries that may be historically significant but were not identified as part of the initial review process. If human remains are discovered during the course of project implementation, IEMA will notify FEMA immediately and will require the sub-grantee to stop project activities in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm until FEMA concludes consultation with the Illinois State Historical Preservation Officer or if warranted other consulting parties and the sub-grantee.

#### 3.6 Comparison of Alternatives

#### **Table of Comparisons\***

		ati a		
Section		Alt. 1	Alt. 2	Alt. 3
		No Action	Proposed Project	Expansion of Existing .
3.1,1	Geology	None	None- Bldg. to	None-Bldg to
3.1,1	Geology	140110	existing codes	existing codes
3.1.2	Water	None	Add'l water run-off-	Add'l water run- off-
3.1.2	Water	None	provide detention	provide detention
3.1.3	Floodplain	None	None	None
3.1.4	Air Quality	None	Temp. dust during	Temp. dust during
3.1.4	All Quality	None	construction	construction.
3.2.1	Terrestrial	None	None	None
		none	None	None
3.2.3	Threat./Endang.			
	Species	None	None	None
3.3.0	Hazardous Waste	None	None	None
3.4.1	Zoning	None	None-Bldg permit	None-Bldg permit
			required	required
3.4.2	Visual Resources	None	None	None
3.4.3	Noise	None	Temp. const. noise	Temp. const. noise
3.4.4	Public Services	None	None	None
3.4.5	Traffic	None	None	None
3.4.6	Environ. Justice	None	None	None
3.4.7	Safety & Security	None	None	None
3.5.0	Historic & Cultural	None	None	None
3.5.1	Historic Structures	None	None	None
3.5.2	Architectural			
	Resources	None	None	None
3.5.3	Tribal Coord.	None	None	None

<sup>\*</sup>Note: Please refer to all documentation including the body of this EA and letters and determinations from other agencies that indicate and there will be no impact to the environment or any population group.

#### **SECTION 4: CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

According to CEQ regulations, cumulative impacts represent the "impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of which agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time (40 CFR 1508.7)." In accordance with NEPA and to the extent reasonable and practical, this EA considered the combined effect of the Proposed Action Alternative and other actions occurring or proposed in the vicinity of the proposed project site.

Other projects in the vicinity of this project (within ¼ mile or so) include the construction of residential condominiums to the west of this property as well as office buildings continue to be constructed. Some public infrastructure projects have been recently completed just north of the property including a new gravity sanitary sewer system. The jail was completed approximately seven years ago in 2002. Currently East Etna Road, an area is being surveyed for a proposed widening project that should begin in the next two years.

#### **SECTION 5: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The following notice will be published in the *Daily Times* newspaper in Ottawa, Illinois. The affidavit of publication will be supplied to FEMA after publication. Additionally the grant award and proposed project received extensive media coverage. No comments were received from the public in response.

# Federal Emergency Management Agency PUBLIC NOTICE

#### Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment For LaSalle County, Illinois, Construction of Emergency Operations Center

Interested persons are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is proposing to assist in the funding of the construction of a new emergency operations center facility for the Illinois Emergency Management Agency on property located at 707 E. Etna Rd., Ottawa, Illinois on vacant ground adjacent to the LaSalle County Governmental Complex. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the implementing regulations of FEMA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared to assess the potential impacts of the proposed action on the human and natural environment. This also provides public notice to invite public comments on the proposed project in accordance with Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, and Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands. In addition, this notice and the draft EA provide information to the public on potential impacts to historic and cultural resources f r o m the proposed undertaking, as outlined in the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

The Environmental Assessment is available for review the LaSalle County Clerk's Office and the LaSalle County Emergency Management Agency at 707 E. Etna Rd, Ottawa, Illinois. It is also available at the Reddick Library, 1010 Canal Street, Ottawa, Illinois.

Written comments regarding this environmental action should be received no later than 5 p.m. on July 1, 2009, by Amanda Ratliff or Roger Caughman, U.S Department of Homeland Security, FEMA Region V, 536 South Clark, 6th Floor, Chicago IL 60605-1521,telephone number 312.408.5440. Comments may also be submitted via email to Amanda Ratliff (Amanda.ratliff@dhs.gov).

If no comments are received by the above deadline, the EA will be considered final and a Finding of No Significant Impact will be published by FEMA.

#### **SECTION 6:** MITIGATION MEASURES AND PERMITS

- **3.1.4** Air Quality During construction the applicant will water down the construction areas when necessary.
- **3.1.2** Water Resources and Water Quality Detention of run-off water will be provided as necessary to control volume of water draining to the Fox River. This will be done in accordance with the City of Ottawa's Storm Water Management Ordinance. The temporary detention of water on the site will result in no increase in the rate of run-off due to the construction of this facility.
- **3.4.4** Noise Any construction noise will be temporary; however, it will be mitigated by limiting construction to normal day time hours. Residences are far enough away that they will not be impacted by the noise of the construction vehicles and equipment.

The only permit required by this project is a building permit issued by the City of Ottawa, Illinois and will be issued following review and approval of the site and building plans.

#### **SECTION 7:** CONSULTATIONS AND REFERENCES

3.1 Contacts in Person: Ms. Vicki Heath and Staff, Resource Conservationist

LaSalle County Soil and Water Conservation District

1691 North 31<sup>st</sup> Road Ottawa, IL 61350

815.433.0551 Ext 40 FAX: 815.433.0665

Email: Vicki.Heath@il.nacd.net

Mike Jobst Coordinator

LaSalle County Emergency Management Agency

707 East Etna Road Ottawa, IL 61350

815.433.5622 FAX: 815.434.2623

Cell: 815.228.7201

Email: mjobst@lasallecounty.org

**3.1.1** Contact in Person: John A. Kusek, P.E., P.L.S.

Project Manager

McClure Engineering Associates, Inc.

1138 Columbus Street Ottawa, IL 61350

815.433.2080 FAX: 815.433.5930

Cell: 815.343.9014

Email: j.kusek@mcclureengineering.com

**3.1.3** Contact in Person Mike Harsted

Environmental & Land Use

LaSalle County

Downtown Courthouse Ottawa, IL 61350 815.434.8666

**3.2.1** Contacts by Tele. Jody Millar

Rock Island Ecological Services

Rock Island Field Office U.S. Fish & Wildlife 1511 47<sup>th</sup> Ave. Moline, IL 61265

309.793.5800 FAX: 309.793.5804

#### Keith Shank

IL Department of Natural Resources Impact Assessment Section One Natural Resources Way Springfield, IL 62702-1271 217.785.4984

#### **3.2.3** Contacts same as above

#### **3.4.1** Contacts in Person Dave A. Noble, P.E.

City Engineer & Dir. Community Dev.

City of Ottawa

301 West Madison Street

Ottawa, IL 61350

815.433.0161 EXT. 20 FAX: 815.433.2344

Email: <a href="mailto:cityengineer@il-ottawa.com">cityengineer@il-ottawa.com</a>

Tami L. Huftel City Planner City of Ottawa

301 West Madison Street

Ottawa, IL 61350

815.433.0161 EXT. 40 FAX: 815.433.2344

Email: planning@cityofottawa.org

#### **3.5** Contact via Mail Anne E. Haaker

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

1 Old Stat Capitol Plaza Springfield, IL 62701-1512

217.785.5027

#### **SECTION 8:** LIST OF PREPARERS

LaSalle County, Illinois Environmental Assessment. Those responsible for preparation of this document include:

John F. Henning Independent Contractor & Grant Administrator

Mike Jobst Coordinator LaSalle County Emergency Management Agency

John F. Henning was the principal preparer of this document, in consultation with Mr. Mike Jobst as well as the other individuals and agencies identified in this document.